

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-10 (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A receiver comprising:

means for receiving signals in a frequency band, the frequency band having a plurality of substantially equally spaced and sized frequency channels, each channel comprising a respective plurality of frequency regions, each respective plurality of frequency regions comprising a respective known frequency region in which data signals are most easily detectable; and

means for searching the band for at least one channel containing useful data, the searching means being adapted to perform operations, the operations comprising:

starting the search with a predetermined frequency value, ~~this~~

| the predetermined frequency value being within the respective known frequency region of a given channel; and

stepwise scanning segments of the frequency band from the predetermined frequency value in accordance with frequency steps, the frequency steps being substantially equal to ~~the~~ a bandwidth of the frequency channels, the segments being frequency sub-bands that are substantially narrower than a channel, so that each step encompasses two channels and takes the scanning to a particular segment of the frequency band that is contained within the respective known frequency region of a successive channel.

12. (Currently Amended) The receiver of claim 11, wherein the predetermined frequency value is based on ~~the~~ a last known good signal.

13. (Previously Presented) The receiver of claim 11, wherein the predetermined frequency value is preprogrammed.

14. (Currently Amended) A CATV system comprising a primary station and a secondary station, ~~which~~ wherein the secondary

station comprises ~~a~~ the receiver as recited in claim 11.

15. (Currently Amended) A method comprising executing operations in at least one data processing device, the operations comprising:

receiving signals in a frequency band, the frequency band having a plurality of substantially equally spaced and sized frequency channels, each channel comprising a respective plurality of frequency regions, each respective plurality of frequency regions comprising a respective known frequency region in which data signals are most easily detectable; and

searching the frequency band for at least one channel containing useful data, the searching comprising:

starting the search with a predetermined frequency value, this the predetermined frequency value being within the respective known frequency region of a given channel; and

stepwise scanning segments of the frequency band from the predetermined frequency value in accordance with frequency steps, the frequency steps being substantially equal to ~~the~~ a bandwidth of the frequency channels, the segments being frequency sub-bands that

are substantially narrower than a channel, so that each step  
| encompasses two channels and takes the scanning to a particular  
| segment of the frequency band that is contained within the  
| respective known frequency region of a successive channel.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the  
| predetermined frequency value is based on ~~the~~ a last known good  
| signal.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the  
predetermined frequency value is preprogrammed.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the at  
| least one data processing device comprises a television receiver  
| coupled to a CATV system.

19. (New) A receiver for receiving signals in a band including  
channels for carrying signals, the receiver comprising a scanner  
configured to scan the band using steps being substantially equal  
to a bandwidth of the channels, wherein a step of said steps

encompasses two channels.

20.(New) The receiver of claim 19, wherein the scanner is further configured to start scanning from a frequency of a last known usable signal.

21.(New) A CATV system comprising a primary station and a secondary station, which wherein the secondary station comprises the receiver as recited in claim 11.